

No. 4 is twice forked and has 3 leaves, with the flower borne in the fork between the upper leaves.

No. 5 is the same, except that the peduncle arises from one of the branches 2 or more inches above the upper fork.

No. 6 is like No. 2, but one branch is shorter and more slender, leaving a much smaller leaf which is only 3-lobed, evidently a transitional state between No. 2 and the next.

No. 7 is No. 2 with one of the branches wholly suppressed, the remaining branch assuming an erect position. This is the most common of the aberrant forms and is more abundant than ever this year.

No. 8 is No. 2 with both branches suppressed. It might pass for a scape, were not the stem just as thick and the peduncle as slender as usual.

No. 4 and 5 furnish good and well marked examples of acceleration in development, and Nos. 6, 7 and 8, of retardation, both occurring in the same species and in the same place.

In the last edition of his Manual, Dr. Gray states that *Podophyllum peltatum* has been found with several carpels, instead of one, and I may add that two such instances have fallen under my observation.—THOS. C. PORTER, Easton, Penn.

SOME NOTES ON NEPETA GLECHOMA AND OTHER PLANTS.—I have just returned from a second short visit to Pulaski Co., Virginia. *Halesia tetraptera* was just coming into bloom (April 26), *Draba verna* fully expanded, and *Sedum Neri* not yet in flower.

In Pulaski, Draper's Valley, I again examined *Nepeta* (May 18) The plants with crosses have increased in numbers, spreading up the hill from the spot where they were at first confined to a space of a few yards. I send you the following measurements:

	With Crosses.	Without Crosses.
Greatest width of flower.....	7-16	4-16
Extreme length of flower.....	14-16	6-16 to 8-16
Extreme length of calyx.....	4-16	3-16
Size of crosses, i.e. length of arms.....	1-32	

Clear length of the corolla.

14-16	Tube 9-16	} 5-16 End of Tube to dilatation. 4-16 Dilated part of tube.

Larger flower with crosses.—

Corolla tube much dilated, hairy, mottled with purple spots, imitating very much *Physostegia Virginiana*; throat (lower lobe of corolla) beset with thick white hairs or glands 1-16 inch in length; stem square, the edges bristly downwards. Calyx 16-ribbed, bristly. Pistil closely set in the groove of the upper lip. Upper anthers (cross) just below summit of upper lobe, say 1-32 inch below; lower anthers (cross) white or reddish!, just at summit of undivided tube, i. e. at base of upper lobe. 1-16 inch of flower exerted from calyx.

Color pink, or light-reddish purple.

Both plants were maturing from one to four seeds; one seed, frequently, much larger than the others. At Mr. Draper's the two plants were at times intermingled, but

Smaller flower without crosses.—

Corolla tube slightly, if at all, dilated, closely hairy with small hairs.

Hairs delicate, 1-32 inch in length.

Bifurcated pistil sheering off from upper lip of corolla. Upper anthers (no cross) below the top of undivided tube, lower ones 1-32 inch below the upper.

Corolla and calyx together less than 8-16 inch.

Color dark-bluish purple, or rather purplish blue, often called by persons a blue flower.

always easily distinguished. In the old garden, a hundred yards from the spring, I found a sort of hybrid, larger flowers than *Nepeta Shriveri* of Wythe Co., and apparently abortive efforts to make bad crosses. But in all other localities (except Mr. Draper's yard) the Wythe County type is through the year scrupulously adherent to its character in respect to having flowers *half the size, dark purplish blue color, never a cross, inconspicuous and widely separated* or no anthers; which I have nothing more to say of than that I shall for the present claim the variety, reverting to the opinion of Prof. Wood some twenty years ago, that the decided and invariable absence of crosses indicated a new flower. No one who compares the two flowers will fail to see the resemblance and the distinctness. I wish those Hyperborean Botanists would designate their chameleon *Nepeta, sporticus* instead of *Glechoma*; and our Wythe plant, Old Ironsides, as its face is as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

I have found a fourth plant of *Hydrastis*, so they belong to our Flora, though I fear they are very recently naturalized.

About three years ago, I detected a dissepiment of *Draba verna*. Next spring at the same spot I collected nice specimens from an area of a few yards. This spring the woods was carpeted in every direction and the plant appeared on the top of Piney Ridge, about Boyd's Depot, at Rich's Mill, on Caldwell's Hill, and, for aught I know, elsewhere. Mr. Forney's eye never detected it, though he was used to it in North Carolina, and had searched over all these grounds. It is my impression that these sixty-five millions—or more—plants came from that small beginning. I regret to say that the same may be predicated of *Andropogon*, which is marching upon us from Tennessee or the West, and raising its plumes to the dismay of many a farmer. I found *Cedronella corbulata* in Pulaski County (Rich Hill) during my last visit, making the third spot in which I have seen it. *Ucularia grandiflora* exists, along with *U. perfoliata* in greatly varied luxuriance, around Wytheville as well as in Pulaski County.—HOWARD SHRIVER, *Wytheville, Va.*

IRIS.—Serenio Watson calls the attention of all botanists during this season to the various species of *Iris*, and specimens of flowers, fruit and roots, fresh or dried, from any part of the country, may be sent to the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, and will be of service. The eastern species of the genus need a thorough revision and all botanists should contribute whatever information they can obtain so that the revision can be made thorough and decisive.—J. M. C.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.——*Algae Exsiccatae Americae Borealis: curantibus W. G. Farlow, C. L. Anderson, D. C. Eaton editæ. Fasc. I.* Under this title is published a set of 50 authentically named North American Seaweeds, many of them rare species from the California collections of Dr. Anderson, and the Key-West collections of Mr. Hooper. Other fasciculi are to follow, until the greater part of our marine Algae are thus distributed. The edition consists of only thirty copies, of which only ten are for sale. The present selection is made up of red and green seaweeds, in small quarto sheets, and its price is \$8. The black and olive-colored Algae will be on folio paper, and the price will be \$12. Address Prof. Wm. G. Farlow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Botanical Contributions, by Asa Gray. *Characters of some little-known or new genera of plants from the Proc. Amer. Acad. Vol. XII., issued, May, 1877.*—Dr. Gray, after having examined for the first time the flowers of *Canotia holocantha* Torr., has placed it in the family of *Rutaceæ*, owing to the structure of the disk, or gynobase. Bentham and Hooker had included it among *Rosaceæ*, and afterwards Baillon put it among the *Celastraceæ*. The plant is from Arizona and is one of the four "spartioid green barked and mainly leafless shrubs" in that dry region; "*Thamnosma montanum*,